

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Patel, Hatsuda, Ramesh, and Davies fail to disclose or suggest a water-soluble cationic copolymer or terpolymer composition as claimed in **amended Claim 21** obtained by continuous polymerization of acrylamide and at least one unsaturated cationic monomer selected from the group consisting of quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylates and quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylamides,

wherein said polymerization is effected on a moving support with a predetermined residence time, and

wherein during said polymerization the metering rate of the acrylamide or the at least one unsaturated cationic monomer is varied in the feed to the moving support in a continuous fashion according to an oscillation about a mean value, wherein oscillation is effected by steadily increasing and steadily decreasing back the metering rate over a time period of about 45 to about 60 minutes.

The Examiner takes the position that there was no evidence on record that an oscillation "at a frequency that is in the same order of magnitude as the residence time" would be materially different with regard to the characteristics of the product, especially commensurate in scope to the claimed parameters to be varied and the polymers used.

In **new Claim 21** to monomers to be polymerized and the parameter to be varied have been limited based on the examples contained in the specification. There is evidence on record as to the characteristics of these exemplified products according to the invention in comparison to conventional products prepared from the same monomers (cf. present application, pages 20 and 21).

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It is respectfully submitted that the evidence on file is commensurate in scope to the claimed parameters to be varied (metering rate of monomer) and the polymers used (acrylamide + quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylate and/or quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl (meth)acrylamide).

Thus, the rejection of Claims 21-29 and 32-38 under 35 USC 103 (a) over Patel, Hatsuda, Ramesh, and Davies should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 21-29 and 32-38 under 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph, is obviated by the amendment of the claims.

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This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850


Kirsten A. Grueneberg, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 47,297

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 412-2220

NFO/KAG/pae